

PORTISHEAD BRANCH LINE PRELIMINARY
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT
VOLUME 4

APPENDIX 10.1

Risk Classifications



Contents

Section	Page
1 Risk Classifications.....	1-1
1.1 Classification and Definition of Consequence of Risk.....	1-1
1.2 Classification and Definition of Probability of Risk.....	1-2
1.3 Comparison of Consequence Against Probability and Related Categorisation of Risks	1-3
1.4 Description of the Classified Risks	1-3

Tables

Table 1-1: Classification and definition of consequence of risk

Table 1-2: Classification and definition of probability of risk

Table 1-3: Comparison of consequence against probability and related categorisation of risks

Table 1-4: Description of the classified risks

Risk Classifications

1.1 Classification and Definition of Consequence of Risk

Table 1-1: Classification and definition of consequence of risk

Classification	Definition
Severe	<p>Short term (acute) risk to human health likely to result in “significant harm” as defined by the Environment Protection Act 1990, Part 2A. Short term risk of pollution of sensitive water resource.</p> <p>Catastrophic damage to buildings/property.</p> <p>A short term risk to a particular ecosystem, or organism forming part of such ecosystem (note: the definitions of ecological systems within the Defra Circular on Contaminated Land, 01/2006).</p>
Medium	<p>Chronic damage to Human Health (“significant harm” as defined in the Defra Circular on Contaminated Land, 01/2006).</p> <p>Pollution of sensitive water resources.</p> <p>A significant change in a particular ecosystem, or organism forming part of such ecosystem. (Note: the definitions of ecological systems within the Defra Circular on Contaminated Land, 01/2006).</p>
Mild	<p>Pollution of non-sensitive water resources.</p> <p>Significant damage to buildings/structures and crops (“significant harm” as defined in the Defra Circular on Contaminated Land, 01/2006).</p> <p>Damage to sensitive buildings/structures or the environment.</p>
Minor	<p>Harm, although not necessarily significant harm, which may result in a financial loss, or expenditure to resolve.</p> <p>Non-permanent health effects to human health (easily prevented by means such as Personal Protective Clothing, etc).</p> <p>Easily repairable effects of damage to buildings/structures.</p>

1.2 Classification and Definition of Probability of Risk

Table 1-2: Classification and definition of probability of risk

Classification	Definition
High Likelihood	There is a pollution linkage and an event which would either appear very likely in the short term and almost inevitable over the long term, or, there is evidence at the receptor of harm or pollution.
Likely	There is a pollution linkage and all the elements are present and in the right place which means that it is probable that an event will occur. Circumstances are such that an event is not inevitable, but possible in the short term and likely over the long term.
Low Likelihood	There is a pollution linkage and circumstances are possible under which an event could occur. However, it is by no means certain that even over a longer period such event would take place, and is less likely in the shorter term.
Unlikely	There is a pollution linkage but circumstances are such that it is improbable that an event would occur even in the very long term

1.3 Comparison of Consequence Against Probability and Related Categorisation of Risks

Table 1-3: Comparison of consequence against probability and related categorisation of risks

		Consequence or Risk			
		Severe	Medium	Mild	Minor
Probability of Risk	High Likelihood	Very High Risk	High Risk	Moderate Risk	Moderate/Low Risk
	Likely	High Risk	Moderate Risk	Moderate/Low Risk	Low Risk
	Low Likelihood	Moderate Risk	Moderate/Low Risk	Low Risk	Very Low Risk
	Unlikely	Moderate/Low Risk	Low Risk	Very Low Risk	Very Low Risk

1.4 Description of the Classified Risks

Table 1-4: Description of the classified risks

Classification	Description
Very High Risk	There is a high probability that severe harm could arise to a designated receptor from an identified hazard, or, there is evidence that severe harm to a designated receptor is currently happening.
High Risk	Harm is likely to arise to a designated receptor from an identified hazard.
Moderate Risk	It is possible that harm could arise to a designated receptor from an identified hazard. However, it is either relatively unlikely that any such harm would be severe, or if any harm were to occur it is more likely that the harm would be relatively mild.
Low Risk	It is possible that harm could arise to a designated receptor from an identified hazard, but it is likely that, at worst, this harm if realised would normally be mild.
Very Low Risk	There is a low possibility that harm could arise to a receptor. In the event of such harm being realised it is not likely to be severe.

This page is intentionally blank.